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Date of Signature and Transmission: May 17, 2000

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mark R. McCormick

Date: May 17, 2000

Serial No.: 08/724,631

Examiner: H. Owens, Jr.

Filed: 10/1/96

Group Art Unit: 1623

For: METHOD FOR PRECIPITATING NUCLEIC
ACID WITH VISIBLE CARRIER

File No.: 700399.90053

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to an Office Action mailed February 17, 2000, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 6, lines 23 and 24 delete "Molecular Probes 1992-1994 catalog, incorporated herein by reference."

REMARKS

The applicant and the undersigned thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview conducted in the course of several conversations during May, 2000.

During the interview, the Examiner acknowledged that the finality of the rejection was premature and, as a result, the Examiner withdrew the finality of the rejection.

The Examiner also withdrew the rejections of Claims 1-3, 7, 8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and indicated that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The applicant respectfully requests confirmation on the record that the rejections and the finality of the rejections have been withdrawn.

To the extent required, reconsideration of the merits of the patent application and the mailing of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.